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Goodwyn Institute - A memorial in honor of William A. Goodwyn and his Family, 1907

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Goodwyn Institute

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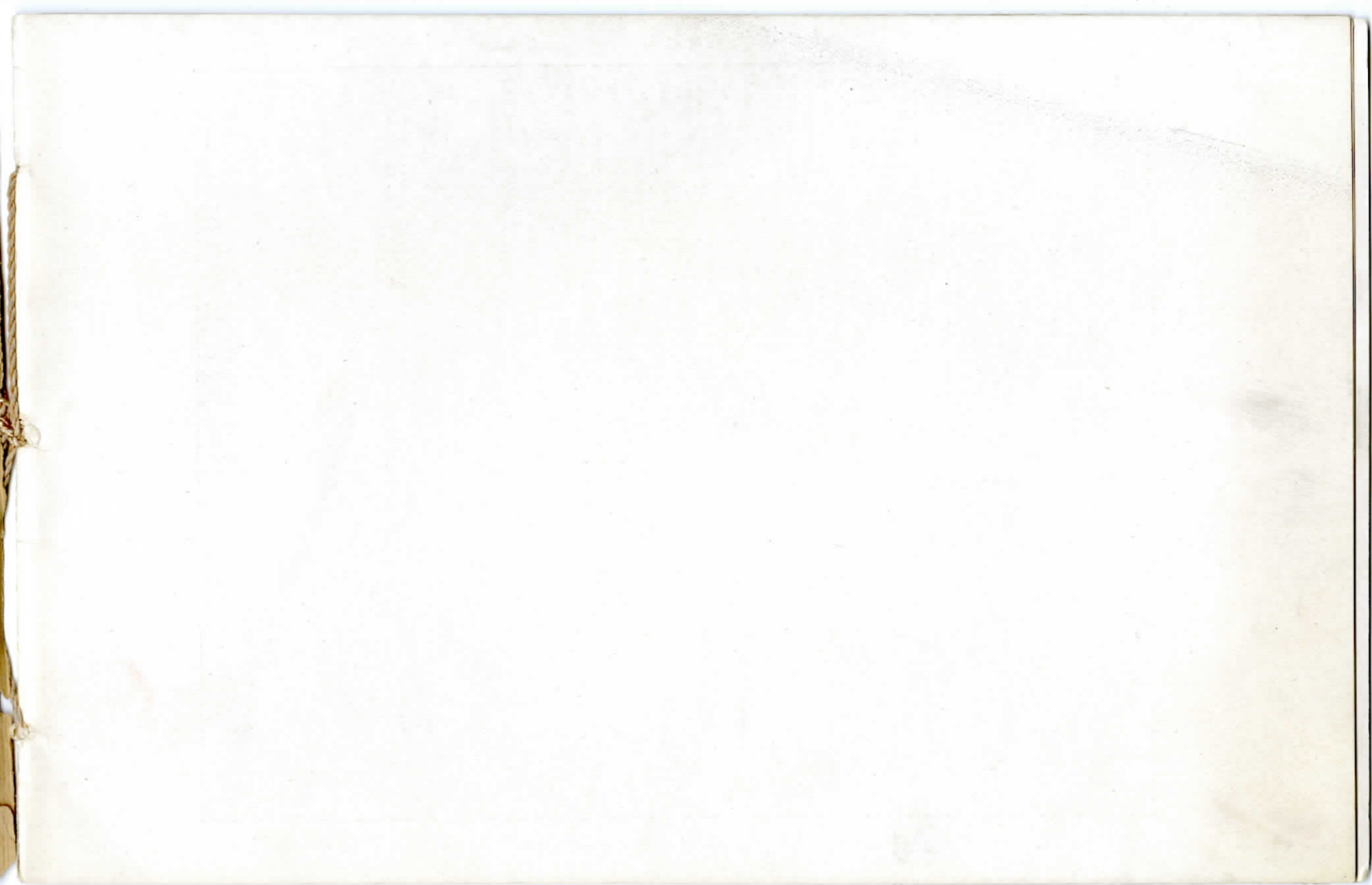
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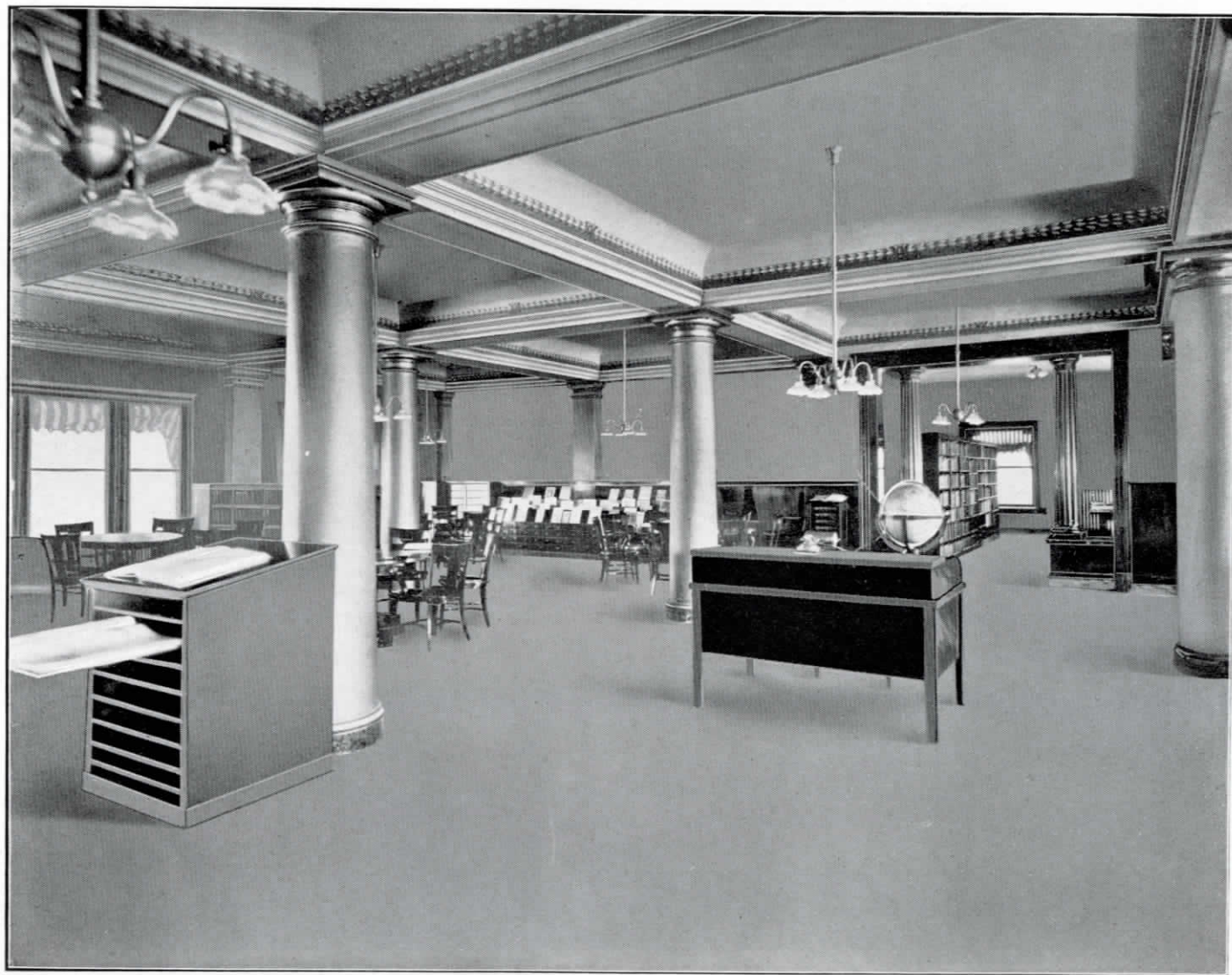


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GOODWYN INSTITUTE LIBRARY, LOOKING SOUTH THROUGH READING ROOM INTO STACK ROOM.

A Memorial

In Honor of

William A. Goodwyn and His Family

*Containing a Biographical Sketch of Wm. A. Goodwyn,
Donor and Founder of Goodwyn Institute; a History of
the Institute and an Outline of Its Work and Purposes*

September 30, 1907

Officers of Goodwyn Institute

STATE OF TENNESSEE, Trustee

Commissioners

SAMUEL P. READ

JOHN R. PEPPER

J. M. GOODBAR

CLARENCE C. OGILVIE, Superintendent

ELIZABETH B. WILKERSON, Librarian

GOODWYN INSTITUTE.

THE PEOPLE of Memphis have for many months now viewed and taken their visiting friends to see the magnificent structure at the corner of Madison Avenue and Third Street, known as the Goodwyn Institute. They have taken keen delight and commendable civic pride in the fact that Memphis possesses such a beautiful and ornamental building; but perhaps only few have known the real purpose of this splendid building or been fully advised as to what Goodwyn Institute is to mean to Memphis and its citizens.

This Monday night, September thirtieth, 1907, Goodwyn Institute is to be formally opened and dedicated to its prescribed work.

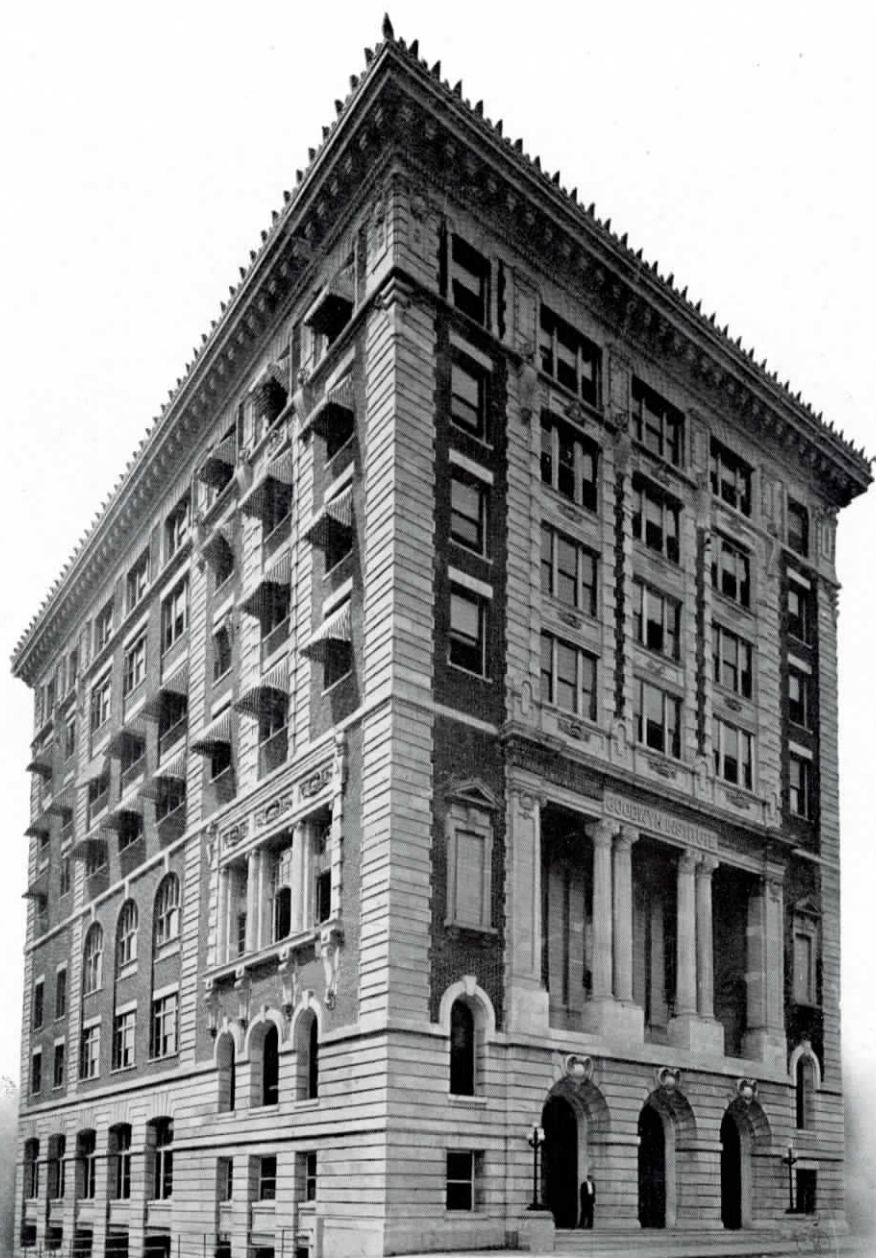
WILLIAM ADOLPHUS GOODWYN.

The history of Goodwyn Institute may be quickly told, but it is the consummation of the life story of a great-souled, unselfish, earnest, sincere man.

William Adolphus Goodwyn was born in Livingston

County, Kentucky, November 13, 1824. His father, Philo H. Goodwyn, born in Bridgewater, Oneida County, New York, was of Puritan ancestry, his ancestors having settled in Hartford, Connecticut, early in the seventeenth century. Mr. Goodwyn's mother, Harriet Greenup Rice, was descended from one of the pioneer families of Kentucky, a family prominent in educational and religious movements. On the maternal side, bearing the name of Rutter, this family was said to have been descended from the famous Dutch Admiral De Ruyter. Throughout Mr. Goodwyn's business career and in his entire life there were constant evidences of predominant qualities of mind and character inherited from this sterling ancestry.

Mr. Goodwyn's education was begun in Louisville, Kentucky, at the age of nine years, and was finished in Nashville, Tennessee. At the close of his school life his father offered him the choice of a profession or a start in mercantile life. He chose the latter and began his career in a hardware store in New Orleans, Louisiana, at a salary of three hundred dollars per year. Later Mr. Goodwyn entered a partnership with his father as cotton buyers in Memphis. This partnership was dissolved some



GOODWYN INSTITUTE.

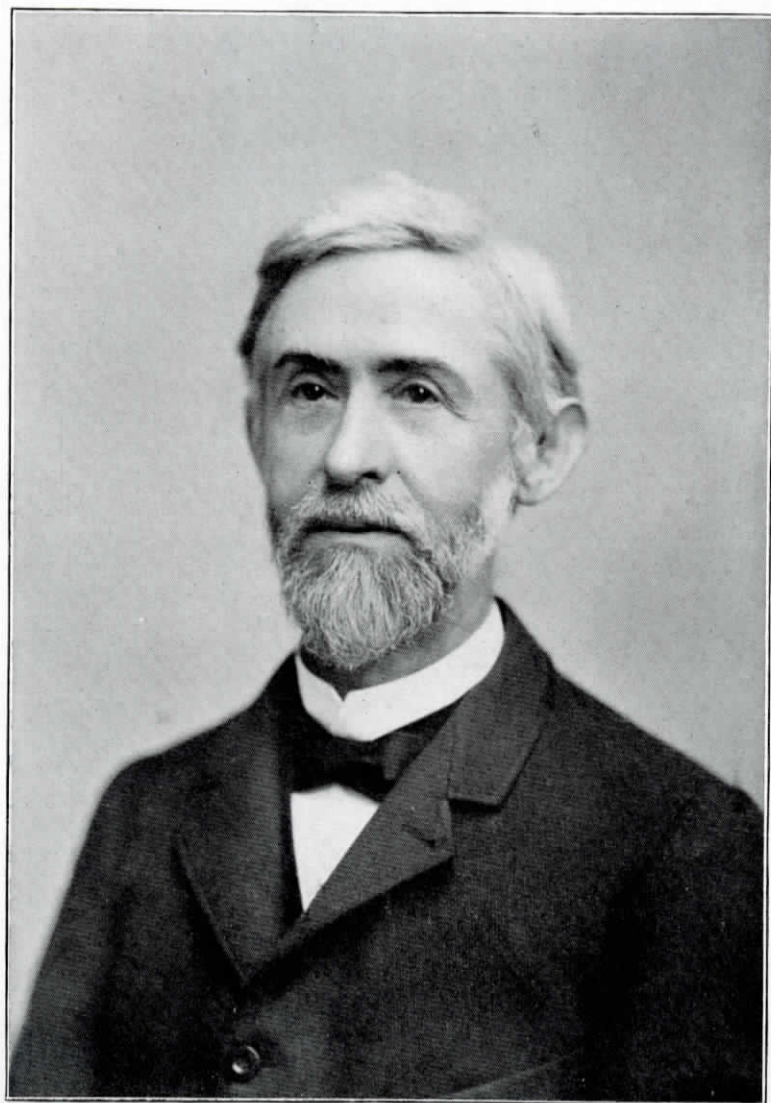
years before the civil war. Mr. Goodwyn, however, continued the business in his own name until his retirement from active business in 1879.

Being unusually thrifty, energetic and intelligent, his business grew rapidly and, as the years passed, they brought him much financial prosperity. He was a public-spirited man in the broadest sense of that term, and as his material interests increased his attachment for our city and its people became stronger and greater.

Later Mr. Goodwyn was married to Miss Harriet R. McGavock, a woman of sweet disposition and of strong character, who sympathized with her husband in all his interests and was a source of constant helpfulness and inspiration to him. She could receive no greater eulogy than the beautiful compliment paid her so feelingly by Mr. Goodwyn in his will. There he speaks of her as "My beloved wife, Harriet R., to whom I owe most of the happiness of my life, who has been to me a true and loving wife and has been my sympathetic companion in joy and sorrow, much of both of which we have experienced, and whose happiness I value above all earthly things."

Their home in Memphis was on Adams Street, at what is now No. 187. This residence Mr. Goodwyn occupied for many years, not disposing of it until some time after he left Memphis. Both he and Mrs. Goodwyn were communicants of the Episcopal Church, and while here were faithful members of Calvary parish. Mr. Goodwyn was a man of unusual poise, very conservative and diligent in business, careful and exact in all things, and refined in his manners and dress. He was a true friend, a splendid citizen, withal a broad, strong character and a Christian gentleman. This Institute, his great philanthropy, fully attests his high regard for his fellow-men.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Goodwyn. The loss of every one of these promising children before they reached full maturity presents a sad tragedy impossible for the human understanding to fathom. A persistent and pathetic fatality seemed to follow them, and one by one these beloved children were laid at rest in Elmwood Cemetery, where one monument now marks their long resting place. At last approaching old age found the strong, patient father and sweet, gentle mother childless.



WILLIAM ADOLPHUS GOODWYN.

Heroically and with Christian acquiescence they bore these great afflictions and tried to soften their sorrows in thoughts and plans for the good of others. Of course their home here and everything in Memphis reminded them constantly of their lost children. Their memories were nearly all touched with sadness. Finally, thinking that new associations and other environments would perhaps be better for them, and Mr. Goodwyn having retired from active business, in 1880 they moved to Nashville, Tenn., where they spent the remainder of their lives.

In October, 1898, Mr. Goodwyn died, and when his will was opened and read, it was found that the closing years of his life had been devoted to retrospection of the family losses he had sustained in Memphis, and that he had bequeathed his ample fortune in such a way as to fittingly commemorate his children and establish a lasting monument to their memory in the city where they were born, lived their short lives, and died. Mr. Goodwyn's great desire was that this memorial to his children should be a practical, self-sustaining philanthropy, perpetual if possible, and so planned as to bring the greatest good to the greatest number, both intellectually and morally.

Long prior to his death his plans were matured, and they are most distinctly and best set forth in the language of his will, which with reference to Goodwyn Institute and its commissioners is as follows:

MR. GOODWYN'S WILL.

"All the balance of my estate, real, personal or mixed, including at the death of Myra McGavock, that given to her in section II., during her life (excepting that part of the personalty or mixed which I allow her to will or give away), I give after death of my wife to the State of Tennessee as trustee for the following uses and purposes and none other: I will and desire that the State, upon the nomination of the governor, to be confirmed by the Senate, appoint three commissioners, to be known as 'Commissioners of Goodwyn Institute,' and said commissioners will hold their office for four years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified; the said commissioners are to purchase a suitable lot in the city of Memphis (now taxing district), in Shelby county, Tennessee, and erect suitable buildings thereon, expending therefor such parts of this gift as to them may seem



ENTRANCE TO OLD HOME.

proper, and retaining the balance for library and apparatus expenses and endowment fund. They are to receive no compensation for their services, and are required to render biennial reports and accounts to the governor of all moneys received or spent, and their management of said trust, or its funds, is to be at all times open to inquiry by the Legislature of the State, under the fostering care of which this institution is placed. The title to the lot purchased and all other property, shall be in the name of the State for the purpose of this trust solely.

"The building, or buildings, to be erected shall be satisfactory to said commissioners, but such portion thereof as can be shall be rented for the purpose of obtaining a revenue for the maintenance of a public library and public lectures. One part of said building shall be devoted to lectures and another part to a library, and the use of the library shall be free to all, under the rules and regulations to be made by said commissioners; and the lectures shall be free, and the whole will be for instruction, and not for entertainment merely. All of the rents, profits and income derived shall be faithfully used

and applied, together with any part of this legacy not used in purchasing or building (after payment of repairs, expenses, insurance, etc.), to pay lecturers and the purchase of books, charts, maps and apparatus. No part of the building is to be used for political gatherings, but when the lecture hall is not used otherwise it may be rented for musical concerts, art exhibitions or other purposes likely to elevate public morals and taste.

"I request the governor to nominate, and the Senate to confirm, as the first commissioners, my friends Samuel P. Read, Bedford M. Estes and Rufus Lawrence Coffin, all of Memphis, Tenn., if living, and will accept. If they do not for any reason accept, then he nominate three gentlemen of Memphis of the highest integrity, purity and responsibility. I estimate that the amount which will go to the State as trustee under the gift, and supplemented by the additional amount which will revert to my general estate and thus to the State after the death of Myra McGavock, as left to her in section 2, will amount to a large sum and ample for the purpose intended. And every year that I live there will probably be more added; for I intend that all I may die possessed of, not



S. P. READ, Commissioner.

otherwise disposed of by my will, shall go for this worthy purpose. My whole wish and desire as respects this Goodwyn Institute is to afford to the future youths, who may desire it, information upon such practical and useful subjects as will be beneficial in life. My reason for locating it in Memphis is it was there I spent much of my life in the happy circle of my wife and children. The latter sleep near her borders, as I and my wife expect to do when we die. Here I made the first friends of my early life; many of them are dead, but their descendants many of them, remain in Memphis, and were playmates of my children, and to them or their descendants I hope this may be of great benefit. This legacy for the benefit of my old home has long been thought of by myself and wife, and took shape in a will written by me in November, 1887, and now repeated. It became necessary to write this will on account of necessary changes and to destroy that of 1887. And I mention this fact in order that my old friends at Memphis may know that I have long cherished this idea.

If the State of Tennessee should refuse to take charge of this trust, then I direct my executors to carry out my

wishes as expressed, as to them may seem best, after consultation with my friends, Judge E. H. East, John M. Lea and J. M. Dickinson, all of Nashville, Tenn. I will that the portraits of my wife and myself and the pictures of my children, now in my dwelling in Nashville, be hung in this Goodwyn Institute, to which I will them."

Thus it is seen that Mr. Goodwyn took every reasonable precaution for the founding and perpetuation of Goodwyn Institute and for its management. The foregoing will was signed May 18, 1893. On May 2, 1898, the following codicil relative to the commissioners was added to the will:

"As my friend, Bedford M. Estes, named by me in section No. 14 of my will, dated May 18, 1893, as one of the trustees for the proposed Goodwyn Institute, has recently died, I desire that the governor of the State of Tennessee nominate in lieu of him Luke E. Wright, lawyer, of Memphis, Tenn. In case of the death of any one of the trustees mentioned herein (of Goodwyn Institute), I request the governor to nominate one whose name appears on the list hereto attached, of date April 19, 1898, which at my request was sent me by my friend, Samuel P. Read.
WM. A. GOODWYN."



JOHN R. PEPPER, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONERS.

THE following names were suggested by Mr. S. P. Read: Gen. Luke E. Wright, Thomas B. Turley, John R. Pepper, J. M. Goodbar, Clifford Bruce, Walter T. Bowdre, Louis Erb, Jno. W. Falls, Re H. Vance and W. J. Crawford.

Mrs. Goodwyn died March 22, 1903, and soon thereafter action was taken that Memphis might secure her great legacy. The State of Tennessee, through its proper officers, willingly accepted the trust imposed upon it by Mr. Goodwyn's will, and in accord with his request, on April 15, 1903, Governor Jas. B. Frazier nominated Samuel P. Read, John R. Pepper and J. M. Goodbar as the first Commissioners of Goodwyn Institute, and their nominations were promptly confirmed by the State Senate.

Mr. Read was the only one of the trio first named by Mr. Goodwyn who was living at that time, Mr. Coffin having died on December 12, 1902, prior to Mrs. Goodwyn's death. Gen. Wright was away from Memphis, serving as governor of the Philippine Islands and so could not accept the commission. Ex-United States Senator Thomas B. Turley, because of the demands of his

private business, was unwilling to act as a commissioner, but cheerfully offered his services as attorney for the institute without compensation, and in that capacity his services have already been most valuable. Messrs. Read, Pepper and Goodbar, although they were fully cognizant of the many duties and exactions connected with the proposed work, cheerfully agreed to act as commissioners, and have earnestly given their time, intelligence and experience to making Goodwyn Institute, the richest endowment yet given to Memphis, a complete success in every particular. Upon no future commissioners of Goodwyn Institute will fall so heavy a task or so much responsibility as these gentlemen have assumed, for they have had to plan and build the grand home of the institute, and will have to inaugurate its work. The institute is indeed fortunate in having men of such pre-eminent success, broad views and marked foresight to launch it upon the vast sea of its noble possibilities.



J. M. GOODBAR, Commissioner.

LOCATION OF BUILDING.

REALIZING the vital importance of the location of the institute, the commissioners, after many conferences and much investigation, finally selected the lot owned by Napoleon Hill on the southwest corner of Madison avenue and Third street, paying for it \$75,000 on July 21, 1903. This is an ideal location for such an institution, and later developments have fully justified the wisdom of their selection. This lot is 75 feet wide, fronting on Madison avenue, and 148 1-2 feet deep on Third street, running back to an alley.

The commissioners, when selecting this lot, did not know that they were choosing a former home of Mr. Goodwyn. Yet such was the case. Upon this lot was a two-story house. This dwelling was a very old one, having been built by a former well-known citizen, Mr. A. O. Harris, in 1840, and was for that time a very handsome residence. For several years just after the close of the civil war Mr. Goodwyn lived in Mr. Harris' home, right where Goodwyn Institute now stands. It was while living here that he laid the foundation of his large fortune. It is historically interesting to know that while Mr. Good-

wyn lived with Mr. Harris, Jefferson Davis, ex-President of the Confederate States, and his family also sojourned for a season in the same house.

Shortly after this lot was purchased there arose an unexpected unpleasantness, which delayed the building of the institute for some time, and which is the only unpleasant affair Goodwyn Institute has yet experienced. Some of Mrs. Goodwyn's relatives, feeling that they were legally entitled to this large inheritance, assayed to break Mrs. Goodwyn's will, in which Mrs. Goodwyn and her sister had so willingly and generously concurred. After much delay and hard-fought litigation, in which Senator Turley championed the cause of the commissioners, the courts sustained the will, and Goodwyn Institute was saved to Memphis.

The long legal battle having been won, B. C. Alsup and N. M. Woods, Jr., both of Memphis, were engaged as architects, and in January, 1906, the ground was broken for this beautiful edifice. In the building of Goodwyn Institute both commissioners and architects have, we believe, fully realized the ideas and ideals of our munificent benefactor. They have builded no temporary struc-



LOBBY—FIRST FLOOR.

ture, but a splendid monument of steel, brick and stone. Although mindful that the building must produce a goodly revenue for maintaining the work of the institute, they still did not sacrifice any of the architectural, aesthetic or monumental beauty of the building for the purpose of adding to its commercial value. While not neglecting its utilitarian purposes, they realized that this building was to be the abiding place of great designs, and was not intended as a plain money maker. Mightier motives inspired its construction, and it will stand for generations a monument of imposing appearance, impressing every beholder and indicating even to the indifferent passerby the nobility of our former fellow-townsmen's gift.

GOODWYN INSTITUTE BUILDING.

The Goodwyn Institute building has cost about \$275,000 and is the handsomest building of its kind in Memphis, if not in the entire South. It faces 75 feet on Madison street and 117 feet on Third street, and was built by the well-known contractors, the Selden-Breck Construction Company of St. Louis and Memphis. The build-

ing is seven stories high and has in addition a basement of 5,768 square feet. The entire building is of steel skeleton or frame, the story, walls and floor loads being carried on steel girders. This steel is all enclosed in fireproof, hard burnt tile, and all the floors and partitions are of this same hollow tile, thus making the entire building absolutely fireproof.

The exterior walls are built of stone to the second floor, and from there up of "Harvard Gate" brick and white terra cotta. The irregularity and varied coloring seen in very old and weather-stained brickwork is the effect secured by the use of the popular "Harvard Gate" brick, and it produces an artistic mosaic, which charmingly reduces the monotony produced by solid colors. In addition to this desired effect the rich colorings of the "Harvard Gate" brick serve as a most admirable background for the white terra cotta trimmings, thereby greatly enhancing and enriching the general appearance of the building. This "Harvard Gate" brick was first used many years ago in building some entrances, piers and adjacent walls on the campus of Harvard University. Later in the North and East this brick became immensely



LOBBY—SECOND FLOOR.

popular for pretentious buildings. In New York City numerous buildings have been faced with these brick, notably the Hotel Astor, Hotel Knickerbocker and the residence of Andrew Carnegie. At present its many and artistic virtues are winning a demand for the "Harvard Gate" brick all over the country.

The architectural style of the building is that of the French Renaissance, and it abounds in the most beautiful and characteristic features of that period; especially noticeable and attractive are the four large stone columns facing Madison street and standing just in front of a unique and commodious loggia. This loggia immediately fronts the entrance to the second floor, and is directly above the expansive vestibule of the first floor.

Perhaps the most strikingly beautiful and picturesque feature of the entire building is its large, elegant, monumental lobby, which is magnificently rich in marble walls, handsomely tiled floors, costly newels, lofty pillars, glistening marble steps and other artistic embellishments. This grand lobby, delightful in its spaciousness, 45 feet wide and 50 feet deep, rises with charming scenic effect to a height of 50 feet. It is difficult to accurately describe

this unusual creation of architectural skill, and it can only be fully appreciated after having been seen and studied.

From the center of the lobby arise, opposite each other, two pure white Italian marble stairs, each eight feet wide. Ascending 12 feet, one on the west, the other on the east, these stairs reach a broad landing, where each divides into two other stairs five feet wide, thus forming two double stairs, all leading to the expansive second floor of the lobby, immediately in front of the auditorium. From the second floor this artistic design of double and quadruple stairs is repeated, furnishing a pleasing and easy ascent to the second floor of the auditorium. The railings of these stairs, of massive bronze trimmed in heavy mahogany, afford a pleasing contrast with the white marble of the steps. Within the lobby stand large round pillars with high marble pedestals and other attractive decorations. The walls, pillars and ceilings are painted in different tints of sienna, which colors prevail throughout the building, while strung across the ceiling are brilliant clusters of electric lights. Indeed, the whole presents a picture of rare beauty.



LOBBY, LOOKING WEST—SECOND FLOOR.

Within this lobby will be placed a memorial tablet of heavy bronze, bearing the names of the founder, Mr. William A. Goodwyn, of the three present commissioners and the architects.

The whole of the second and third floors, aside from the lobby space, are devoted to the auditorium, which is a perfect little gem of theatrical architecture.

AUDITORIUM.

The main floor of the auditorium is entered directly from the center of the second floor of the monumental lobby through four wide glass doors, the second floor being entered on either side of the lobby or directly from the elevators. The floors of the auditorium are painted mahogany in color and are seated with neat, comfortable opera chairs. The aisles and spaces back of the seats are covered with dark red carpets. All the furniture and woodwork trimmings of the auditorium are in mahogany. The walls and ceilings of the entire auditorium are painted in sienna and trimmed in varying shades of this same color. Thus the color combinations are pleasing and restful to the eyes, while the light is splendidly dis-

tributed. The electrical lighting fixtures of the auditorium are beautiful in their simplicity and effectiveness. This auditorium will seat about 900 people.

In the south end of the main floor is located the symmetrical little stage, concave in shape, artistically trimmed in mahogany and dark red burlap. On each side of the stage are large dressing rooms. It is desired that part of this space shall be occupied later by a superb pipe organ, which will adorn the whole auditorium and frequently fill it with sweetest harmonies. At present the stage is provided with an exceedingly handsome grand piano, pretty mahogany tables and chairs.

LIBRARY.

The seventh floor, back of elevators and with the exception of the offices facing Madison avenue, has been made into the airiest, best lighted library conceivable. To the furnishing of the library the commissioners have paid particular attention. The furniture was made as a special order by the Library Bureau of Chicago and New York, the artist and designer representing that firm being the same who superintended the furnishing of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan's library in New York.



BALCONY OF LOBBY—SECOND FLOOR.

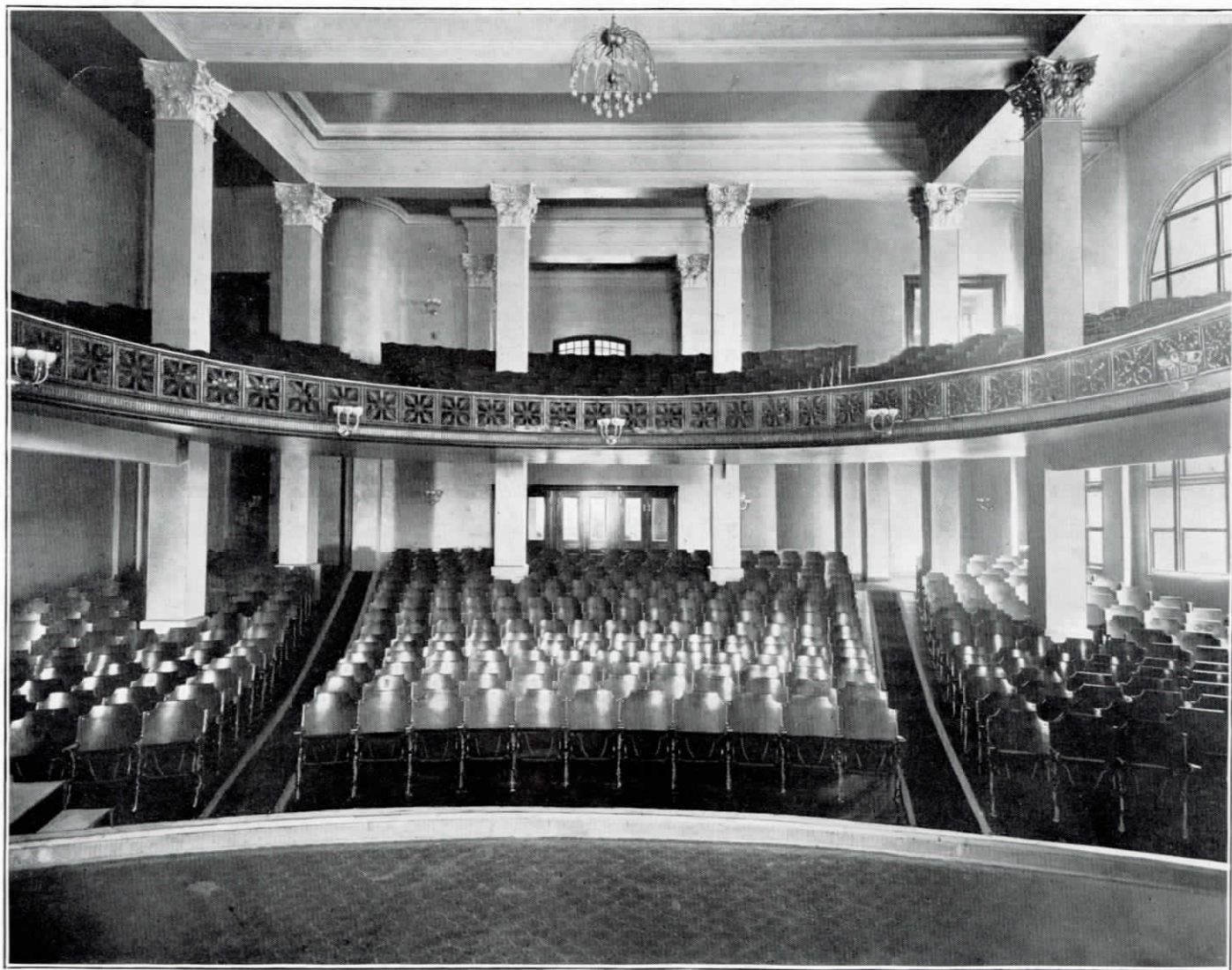
The library is divided into two rooms, a large reading room 54 feet wide and 41 feet deep, and stack room 54 feet wide and 28 feet deep. All the furniture of the main reading room is of mahogany. In this room are forty feet of double book cases and 82 feet of single wall book cases, all 4 feet 4 inches high. The double book cases are placed between the pillars and have wings of small sections of wall cases returning to the windows, thus dividing the room into small alcoves for departmental libraries. In each of these nine alcoves and beneath a pretty electric chandelier is a large, round, massive table, five feet in diameter, which is surrounded by nine mahogany half-arm reading chairs. In addition to these are all the necessary desks, stands, card-cases, chairs and equipment for an up-to-date reference library. The bases of all pillars, cases and fixed furniture are of verde antique marble. At the six windows of this room are handsome mahogany window seats, 12 feet in length, beneath which the radiators are hidden. The fronts of these seats are made attractive with ornamental grill work and verde marble.

The walls and ceiling are tastefully and appropriately painted and decorated. A splendid portrait of Mr. Goodwyn will be hung here, and numerous busts and pictures will adorn the room. The whole room, with its handsome adornments, wide tables, comfortable chairs and cozy window seats, provides a study room enticing and altogether satisfactory.

STACK ROOM.

The stack room is finished in harmony with the reading room. The books, stacks and furniture of this room are all of highly polished golden oak. There are 123 feet of book stacks, made in sectional forms of three feet, capable of much extension. These book stacks are so fitted and equipped with steel uprights that additional tiers of stacks may be added with the growth of the library. In this room will also be located a perfectly equipped working room for the librarian and her assistants.

The present equipment of both rooms is sufficient for 15,000 volumes.



AUDITORIUM.

OFFICES.

The fourth, fifth and sixth floors each contain sixteen large, well lighted office rooms. These are divided in groups by pretty ceramic tiled corridors, running at right angles. Through these corridors breezes freely blow from every direction, and even in hottest summer days seldom are fans needed in the surrounding offices. Each office is floored with hardwood maple and is provided with a convenient, dainty lavatory. The offices are all large, airy and well lighted. All are painted in light tints of sienna in harmony with the building. Many of these offices are now divided with handsome oak and glass partitions, and with few exceptions they are all filled with the furniture of busy professional and business men, who take great pride in Goodwyn Institute.

REST OF BUILDING.

On the first floor to the right and left of the lobby are long, pleasant office rooms, while at the rear of the lobby and just back of the two elevators is an expansive store-room, 72 feet wide and 66 feet deep. These are furnished

and equipped in harmony with the remainder of the building, and are all occupied by prosperous tenants.

The whole building is heated with steam, lighted with the most approved electrical wiring and lights, and is supplied with water and gas throughout. Large, airy toilet rooms lined with white marble are provided for each floor.

Two elevators, one in each side of the rear of the lobby, equipped to run 350 feet per minute, furnish immediate, easy and uncrowded accommodations to all tenants and visitors. These elevators are constructed in the most approved fireproof elevator shafts.

As this Institute stands for the best and most wholesome in education and entertainments, so it is intended by the commissioners to make its rental space ideal and thoroughly satisfactory to its tenants. It shall be their constant effort to make and keep the entire building as sanitary, neat, comfortable and attractive as possible. Perfect courtesy and a due regard and respect for the rights and opinions of others shall characterize the Goodwyn Institute and all connected with it.



STAGE OF AUDITORIUM.

PURPOSES OF GOODWYN INSTITUTE.

THE commissioners are convinced that the income from the rentals of this magnificent building and the revenue from the endowment fund, remaining from the cost of the building, will enable them to carry out fully, in letter and spirit, Mr. Goodwyn's great educational plans. One sentence in his will served Mr. Goodwyn to express what these plans were; but in that sentence is the proverbial multum in parvo exemplified. He wrote: "One part of said building shall be devoted to lectures, and another part to a library, and the use of the library shall be free to all under the rules and regulations to be made by the said commissioners; and the lectures shall be free, and the whole will be for instruction and not for entertainment merely."

THE LIBRARY.

Its Scope and Purpose.

From a careful study of Mr. Goodwyn's will the commissioners have decided that he wished the library of Goodwyn Institute to be a reference library, open easily accessible and free to all white citizens, especially



ELIZABETH B. WILKERSON, Librarian.

In order to furnish the latest and most reliable information along these scientific and technical lines, the library will be rich in current periodicals devoted to these fields. Full sets of the standard magazines will also be added.

Since it is to be a reference library no books can be drawn out for circulation or home use. The reading room will be open from nine to ten hours a day, and any one can consult any volume upon the shelves. The public is most cordially invited to use the library freely and frequently, and it will be the pleasure of the library staff to give all assistance possible to the seeker after knowledge.

Practically all the standard English and American weeklies and monthlies will be kept on file in the magazine section of the reading room.

While donations of books for this library will be most cheerfully and gratefully received, the commissioners of the Institute reserve the privilege of putting on its shelves only such books as its proper officers consider suitable, helpful and advantageous to the library and its patrons.

LECTURES.

IT is, perhaps, in the provisions for lectures that Mr. Goodwyn has made his bequest most beneficial to the people of Memphis and has brought the greatest good to the greatest number. No movement in American life has done more for the general elevation of the educational, artistic, aesthetic and moral standards of our towns and cities than the growth and popularity of lecture courses.

This great plan of popular education, self culture and community instruction by courses of lectures and high class artistic and moral entertainments was originated by Josiah Holbrook in 1826 in Massachusetts, and the system was named by him the "Lyceum," being derived, of course, from the celebrated grove in Athens, where the great philosopher Aristotle taught. The first lecturer for fees in America was the revered Concord author and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Gradually, through the years, so popular did the movement become that today there are, perhaps, 2,000 people, public lecturers and entertainers, on the American lyceum platforms. They furnish the best and noblest in popular education, because



TOMB OF WM. A. GOODWYN, HIS WIFE AND NINE CHILDREN.

they are absolutely democratic, and because they give the people what they want and are asking for in philosophy, physiology, natural sciences, travel, history, art, literature, social science and matters of municipal interest. Indeed, these lyceum lectures are the great forum of America; popular and democratic, they represent and reflect the thought of the day as does perhaps no other movement.

Numerous attempts have been made to maintain lecture courses in Memphis, with fair success for a while, but for lack of funds to pay the best talent, sooner or later they failed. Every year a few famous lecturers and well known entertainers are brought to Memphis by literary, charitable or musical organizations. In these ways we have secured much knowledge and real pleasure; but they have only served to give an earnest of what is now in store for us through Mr. Goodwyn's munificence. It is the intention and earnest resolution of the Goodwyn Institute to furnish to Memphis audiences the best lecturers and entertainments to be obtained from the vast field of the American lyceum. All these are to be absolutely free,

and certainly the people of Memphis are most fortunate in being the recipients of such an inestimable donation.

As before stated, the commissioners are doing their utmost to execute not only the letter but the full spirit of Mr. Goodwyn's will as regards Goodwyn Institute, and they eagerly and sincerely seek the support, patronage and co-operation of all loyal, earnest, thoughtful citizens of Memphis in their attempts to have Goodwyn Institute realize the ideals and even surpass the fondest dreams of its great-hearted, unselfish founder.

Quietly he sleeps in silent Elmwood today, close beside his devoted wife and near his beloved children, whose lives were not allowed to bless him by blossoming into maturity; but his and their monument remains perpetual, and the spirit of William A. Goodwyn will long inspire the appreciative generations of grateful Memphis citizens.

"For he who blesses most is blessed,
And God and man will own his worth
Who seeks to leave as his bequest
An added beauty to the earth."

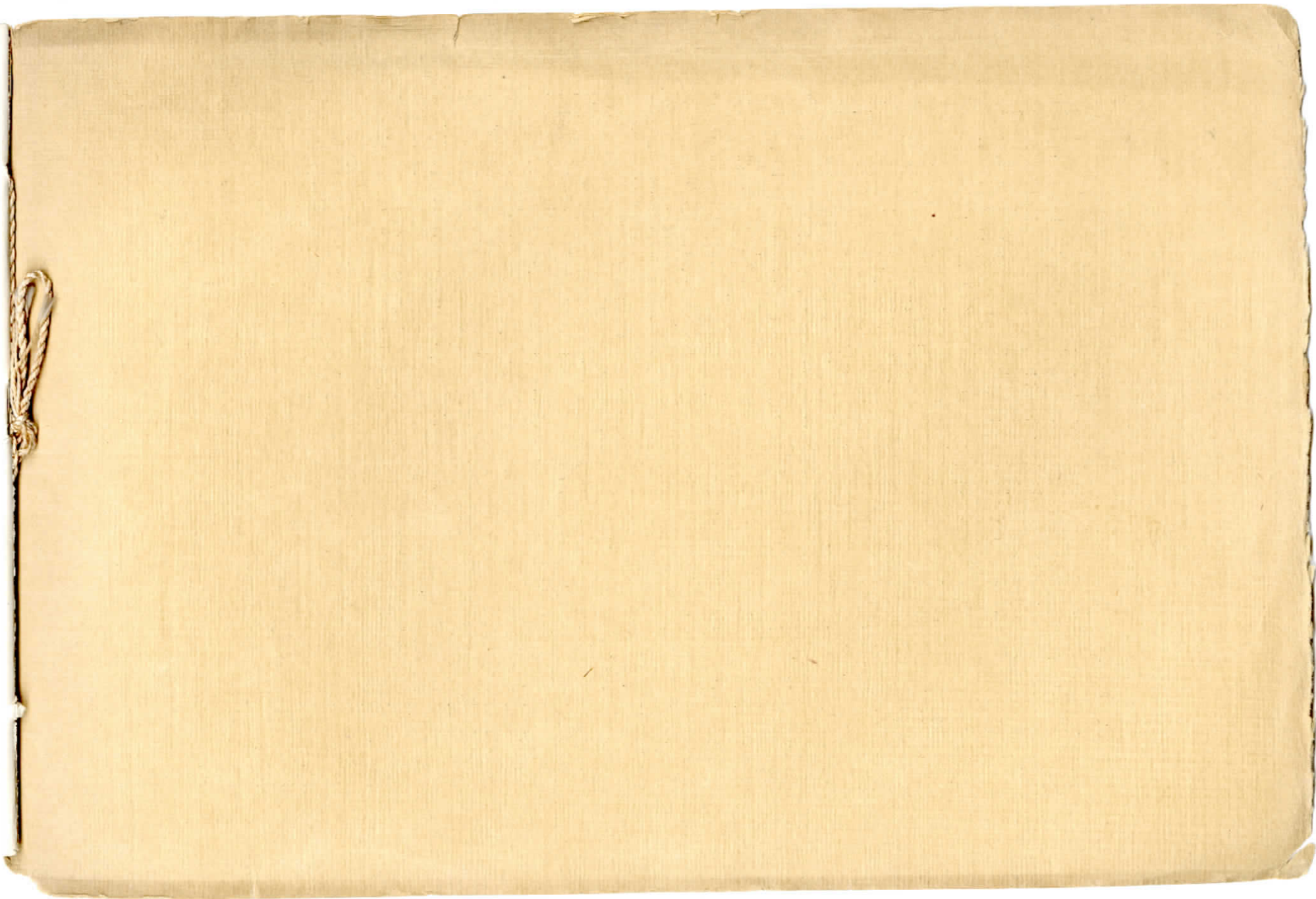
Clarence C. Ogilvie.

"The noblest motive is the public good"
—*Virgil*



SECTION OF READING ROOM OF GOODWYN INSTITUTE LIBRARY.





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